In the Claims

1.　(Currently Amended) A method of supervising personal exposure to a consumer electronics device, the method comprising:

receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by the consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving one or more viewer indicators indicative of one or more viewers present in a viewing area corresponding to the consumer electronics device;

comparing the one or more viewer indicators with a plurality of viewer specifications to identify one or more viewing profiles associated with the one or more viewers present in the viewing area;

receiving timing information indicative of a reference time;

selecting a time range specification corresponding to the timing information;

receiving content-based specifications corresponding to the one or more viewing profiles associated with the one or more viewers present in the viewing area and the selected time range specifications, wherein the one or more viewing profiles includes a plurality of ~~two or more~~ time range specifications, wherein the time range specifications each corresponds individually to a separate content-based specification ~~and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications~~;

receiving a content–based indicator indicative of the content of the user discernible information;

comparing the content–based indicator with content–based specifications corresponding to each of the one or more viewing profiles associated with the one or more viewers present in the viewing area and corresponding to the selected time range specifications; and

generating a control signal based on the comparison between content–based indicator and content–based specifications.

2.　(Original)　The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of

scanning the viewing area for the presence of viewers; and

generating a viewer indicator.

3.　(Original)　The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of comparing scanned images of a viewer with stored images of selected individuals.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of storing images of selected individuals.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of photographing selected individuals.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving viewer specifications;

selecting one or more viewer specifications corresponding to the one or more viewer indicators; and

receiving content-based specifications corresponding to the selected one or more viewer specifications.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of extracting the content–based indicator from the program signal.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the content–based indicator and the content–based specification is a rating.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the control signal is generated if the content–based indicator rating exceeds the content–based specification rating.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the content–based indicator and the content–based specification is a subject matter category.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the control signal is generated if the content–based indicator category matches the selected content–based category.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of impairing the program signal in response to the control signal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the program signal is blocked in response to the control signal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the consumer electronics device is a television system and the user discernible information comprises audio/video information.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of

receiving viewer specifications;

selecting one or more viewer specifications corresponding to the one or more viewer indicators; and

receiving content-based specifications corresponding to the selected one or more viewer specifications and the selected time range specifications.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of extracting the content–based indicator and the timing information from the program signal.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating the timing information within the consumer electronics device.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the reference time indicated by the timing information is the current time.

21.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of

entering a viewer specification corresponding to a selected viewer or group of viewers; and

entering a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification.

22.   (Original)   The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of entering a finite time range specification corresponding the viewer and content-based specifications.

23.   (Currently Amended) A method of supervising the exposure to a consumer electronics device, the method comprising:

receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by the consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving a viewer indicator indicative of a viewer present in a viewing area corresponding to the consumer electronics device;

receiving viewer specifications corresponding to selected viewers;

comparing the viewer indicator with the viewer specifications to identify a viewing profile associated with one of the selected viewers present in the viewing area;

selecting a viewer specification corresponding to the viewer indicator, wherein the viewer specification comprises a plurality of time range specifications, each time range specification

corresponding individually to a separate content-based rating specification; ~~different content-based rating specifications corresponding to each of two or more time range specifications~~;

receiving a content–based program rating indicative of the content of the user discernible information;

receiving timing information indicative of a reference time;

selecting a time range specification from the two or more time range specifications of the selected viewer specification corresponding to the reference time;

receiving a content-based rating specification of the selected viewer specification corresponding to the selected time range specification;

comparing the content–based rating with the content–based program rating; and

impairing the program signal if the content–based program rating exceeds the content–based rating specification.

24.   (Original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the program signal is impaired by scrambling the program signal.

25.   (Original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the program signal is impaired by blocking the program signal.

26.   (Original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the selected time range specification repeats for each day of a workweek.

27.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 23, further comprising:

receiving a second viewer indicator indicative of a second viewer present in the viewing area;

comparing the second viewer indicator with the viewer specifications to identify a second viewing profile associated with a second one of the selected viewers present in the viewing area;

selecting a second viewer specification corresponding to the second viewer indicator, wherein the second viewer specification comprising different content-based rating specifications corresponding to each of two or more time range specifications;

selecting a time range specification from the two or more time range specifications of the second viewer specification corresponding to the reference time;

receiving a second content-based rating specification of the second viewer specification corresponding to the selected time range specification;

comparing the second content–based rating with the content–based program rating; and,

wherein the step of impairing the program signal includes impairing the program signal if the content–based program rating exceeds the content–based rating specification or the second content-based rating specification.

28.   (Original)   The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of

scanning the viewing area for the presence of viewers; and

generating a viewer indicator.

29.   (Original)   The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of comparing scanned images of a viewer with stored images of selected individuals.

30.   (Original)   The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of extracting the content–based program rating from the program signal.

31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Cancelled)

33.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of extracting the content–based rating and the timing information from the program signal.

34.   (Original)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of generating the timing information within the consumer electronics device.

35.   (Original)   The method of claim 34 further comprising the steps of

entering a viewer specification corresponding to a selected viewer or group of viewers;

entering a content-based rating corresponding to the viewer specification; and

entering a finite time range specification corresponding the viewer and content-based specifications.